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General Assembly

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Fifty-third session
Item 85 of the provisional agenda*
Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Report of the Secretary-General

(in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 52/64)

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 52/64 of 10 December 1997. Paragraph 8 of the resolution reads as follows:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "...
>
> "8. *Requests* the Secretary-General:
>
> "(a) To provide the Special Committee with all necessary facilities, including those required for its visits to the occupied territories, so that it may investigate the Israeli policies and practices referred to in the present resolution;
>
> "(b) To continue to make available such additional staff as may be necessary to assist the Special Committee in the performance of its tasks;
>
> "(c) To circulate regularly to Member States the periodic reports [on the current situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem];
>
> "(d) To ensure the widest circulation of the reports of the Special Committee and of information regarding its activities and findings, by all means available, through

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the Office of Communications and Public Information of the Secretariat and, where necessary, to reprint those reports of the Special Committee that are no longer available;

"(e) To report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on the tasks entrusted to him in the present resolution".

2. All necessary facilities were provided to the Special Committee. Arrangements were made for it to meet in March, July and September 1998. Furthermore, the Special Committee carried out a field mission to Egypt, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic in July 1998. Two periodic reports and the thirtieth annual report of the Special Committee have been circulated to Member States (A/53/136 and Add.1 and 2).

3. Pursuant to paragraph 8 (d) of resolution 52/64, the Department of Public Information undertook the following activities:

(a) The Department of Public Information continued to provide press coverage of the meetings of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories. Extensive press and audiovisual coverage was also provided for the meetings of the Commission on Human Rights. The methods used by the Department to provide this coverage included production of press releases, publications, television news packages and radio programmes, and organizing press briefings and briefings for the public;

(b) The Department continued to disseminate United Nations information materials, documents and press releases on the activities of the Special Committee and the Commission on Human Rights through the global network of United Nations information centres and services in 69 countries, the 364 depository libraries in 141 countries and electronically through the Internet. The Department also continued to make information materials available to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) through its resource centres in New York and Geneva;

(c) The Department of Public Information provided press coverage to the Special Committee's field mission to Egypt, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic from 31 July 1998. Press releases about the activities of the Committee were issued at Headquarters and United Nations Information Service (UNIS) Geneva, the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Cairo (Egypt), and UNDP offices in Amman (Jordan) and Damascus (Syria); UNIS/UNIC Beirut (Lebanon) assisted with media coverage during the Committee's mission in that region.

4. It should be also noted that, on 15 May 1998, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to all States drawing attention to resolutions 52/64, 52/65, 52/67 and 52/68.

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Item 85 of the provisional agenda*
Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

The occupied Syrian Golan

Report of the Secretary-General

(in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 52/68)

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 52/68 of 10 December 1997, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"*The General Assembly*,

"...

"1. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with the relevant resolutions on the occupied Syrian Golan, in particular Security Council resolution 497 (1981), in which the Council, *inter alia*, decided that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan was null and void and without international legal effect, and demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, should rescind forthwith its decisions;

"2. *Also calls upon* Israel to desist from changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan and in particular to desist from the establishment of settlements;

"3. *Determines* that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken or to be taken by Israel, the occupying Power, that purport to alter the character and legal

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status of the occupied Syrian Golan are null and void, constitute a flagrant violation of international law and of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and have no legal effect;

"4. *Calls upon* Israel to desist from imposing Israeli citizenship and Israeli identity cards on the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan, and to desist from its repressive measures against the population of the occupied Syrian Golan;

"5. *Deplores* the violations by Israel of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;

"6. *Calls once again upon* Member States not to recognize any of the legislative or administrative measures and actions referred to above;

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 15 May 1998, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the resolution, that the Minister inform him of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged taking concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

4. By a note verbale dated 15 May 1998, the Secretary-General also drew the attention of all States parties to the Convention to paragraph 6 of resolution 52/68.

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Fifty-third session
Item 89 of the provisional agenda*
Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination

Letter dated 12 August 1998 from the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that, at its 1483rd meeting, on 16 September 1997, the Special Committee adopted a resolution (A/AC.109/2098) in which the nomenclature of agenda item 89, "Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination", was changed to read "Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories". This nomenclature was reiterated at the adoption of the same resolution at the 1495th meeting of the Special Committee on 10 July 1998 (A/AC.109/2125).

I would be grateful if the above-mentioned change in the wording of the item could be brought to the attention of the General Assembly, with a view to reflecting a similar change in the provisional agenda of the fifty-third session.

(*Signed*) Bruno Rodríguez **Parrilla**
Acting Chairman
Special Committee on the Situation with regard
to the Implementation of the Declaration on the
Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries
and Peoples

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